47th Annual HALIBURTON Home & COTTAGE SHOW

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026
3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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Sweet treats
Explore the Lollipop Trail on page 7

Best blossoms
15 years of flower power on page 11

Dogs Days of summer
Snowflake Meadows fundraiser on page 12

Welcome to summer! One-year-old Sutton peeks through the former billboard in Head Lake Park. /FILE

VIVIENNE: *Alternative*

GREETINGS. I'M Vivienne, although I prefer *Vivie*. It's a nice old name, long or short. Thankfully, I'm in the same class again with my bestie, Thomas. He's low-key, but always hatching fun ideas for his homemade comics. He sometimes asks my advice, and I love when he takes it right through to final printing. He also brainstorms with his twin sister, but she's usually busy doing her own thing.

Like Thom, I'm a shy Grade Sixer. Unlike Thom, I have a crush on someone. It's actually on Thom. I think he has great style and manners. I sometimes imagine inviting him to go paddleboarding, but he seems happier playing chess, or chatting about school, movies, *Pokémon* cards, or something. If he likes anybody, it sure isn't me. He did blush and grin, though, when new girl Cecilia complimented him on his hair. Thom's adorable smile stuck around a few extra seconds after she stopped by his desk.

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

Anyway, this is about me. I'm not as into books and art as some of my classmates, but I make friendship bracelets like a pro, and I sometimes wear about ten on each wrist before I give them away. I also turn vintage t-shirts into bandanas, since some of us with longer hair like to tuck it back for sports but still look cool. My mom says I'm a free thinker because what I enjoy isn't what most kids like or do. My favourite music is *alternative rock*, for example. I haven't yet met anybody else my age who plays *The Smiths*, *Oasis* or *The Cranberries* as much as I do. I painted my whole room 'Boho Purple', then put up posters of indie bands. The environment, too. I'm mega into that.

I once watched a family friend throw out most of her cooked Thanksgiving turkey without saving it for leftovers. I tried interrupting, but then I got too nervous. My parents would have simmered every bone and used all extra meat. I also love that they delay raking our yard until after firefly season. Lots of dormant creatures need to mature under those fallen leaves. Plus we grow vegetables, and compost almost everything organic. It feels right to put back into Mother Earth what she gave us.

I respect Miss Fields in a huge way. She reduces, reuses and recycles all possible classroom materials. We use our pencils down to the ends before we toss them. Our names in her paper *democracy bag* feel like the fairest way to choose helpers, leaders or teams. She gives *points-for-prizes* to keep us participating. I've already won the right to bring a stuffie to school for a day. I help keep the classroom tidy. She's setting up penpals for us with Junior students in Kenya. She lets us run *show-and-tell*, and pulls down rolled-up maps for Social Studies challenges. I now know where Dubai, Wales and Baffin Island are!

It's lovely to be a student. I much prefer teachers with humour and imagination.

Author's note: Here's the latest in our alphabeti-cal series, Dickens-style, introducing a fictional Central Ontario classroom which recognizes student individuality, diversity, similarity, and wide-open growing on the verge of their futures. It's also our effort to help celebrate devoted teachers everywhere. We invite all ages, but especially kids, to enjoy reading these chapters out loud. ROOM 10 will soon be available in picture book format. A similar series will follow this one. Stay tuned!

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An inconvenient truth

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

I HAVE always suspected that when the Ministry of Natural Resources introduced their on-line licensing system, they did it for a reason. Now, all these years later, I am certain I know the reason. It is so that people like me get calls from a computerless friend or relative several times a year asking if we could go through the excruciatingly boring on-line process yet again - only this time, for them.

In my case, the call is always from my brother.

He has not owned a computer for at least five years. He says he says he no longer needs one. This is probably because he calls me whenever he needs to do internet searches, on-line orders, and, most importantly, to renew his fishing, hunting, and firearms licences.

This morning, he called and asked if I could go on-line to help him purchase his deer and moose calf licence. I'm not going to say I hate doing this, but I will say I did offer to buy him a computer instead.

I know what you are thinking. I could just tell him to visit his local Service Ontario office to buy his licences in person – and I have in the past. But he says it is too inconvenient. So instead, I must drop everything and take about 20 minutes out of my day to go through the process for him.

This morning we made our way through the entire process, and then it happened.

There was a glitch with his credit card, so instead of allowing him to make a phone call and sort it out, which would have taken at least another 30 minutes out of the time I have left on this earth, I just offered to pay for the licences.

So, to recap, by the time we were done, I lost 20 minutes of my life and around $130, which I will get back next time I see him, likely in September – because he doesn't do on-line banking either. He says it's too inconvenient.

If it sounds like I am complaining, it is only because this type of thing has been going on several times every year for the last five years. We do it so often that I have memorized his outdoors card number and password. Also, we did it less than a week ago to renew his firearms licence. And that took about 40 minutes.

The worst of it is, we are not finished yet. When the online licences become available for printing, it will be my responsibility to ensure that I print them for him and not lose the copies before he and I meet for the hand-off. Sure, I could email the PDFs to him, and he could open the files on his phone to print them off at his local library, but he'd rather have me do it. That will save him from the inconvenience.

It is things like this that make me glad I did not have more brothers.

I'm not sure that the MNR envisioned that their online licensing system would bring people together in this way, but here we are.

And, honestly, aside from this, I think they created a rather good on-line system.

But do you know who thinks it is better? That's right, my brother.

He finds it very convenient.

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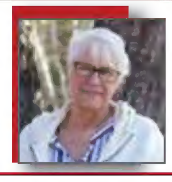

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Glimpses of the past

Refrigeration c. 1938

This snapshot shows the three Wunker boys and their dog. It was likely taken by Erna Wunker late in their first season of 1938, as the pieces of ice are fairly small, and the corn in the back field is well developed.

Bob, (left), is washing off a piece of bulk ice that has been taken from the ice house. Bill, (right), appears to be breaking up another block in a wash tub with an ice pick to make crushed ice for the Dining Room. Don, (center), is holding a block of ice for possible delivery to the Lodge Kitchen. He also appears to be holding a quart bottle of milk.

RUSS WUNKER
Glimpses of the Past

Where Bill sits is now the drive way between the Kitchen and the Ice House. The weedy garden plot, and rows of corn to the rear, are in what is now the Miners Bay Lodge (MBL) parking lot and the location of the Pool Hall. The Ice House later had an addition on the right side, that now houses freezers.

A full supply of blocks of ice in the Ice House would usually last for an entire year, but as the season progressed, shrinkage was not unusual. In the early days, ice provided all refrigeration at MBL, although a root cellar also was used for cool storage.

Excess ice was sold to cottagers. The going rate for blocks of ice in 1938 was a half cent per pound. Blocks were weighed on an old platform grain scale. Later, a "grinder" was installed to make crushed ice. By the 1960s, the price of ice had risen to the more realistic – but still bargain price – of a penny a pound!

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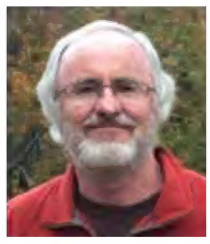
Naturally Yours

The Lollipop Trail

In the north-east part of Haliburton County, you will find some great hiking. Beetle Lake Trail in the past was a five kilometre loop with a bridge over Oxtongue Creek. This one trail is now two so-called "lollipop trails" – out and back trails with small, circular loops at the end of each. I hiked the more rugged east trail which follows a high ridge running the length of Oxtongue Lake narrows.



RICK WHITTEKER
Naturally Yours

I parked at the trailhead which is on Elliot Road just over the Oxtongue Lake bridge on Hwy 60, the next road past the turn off to Algonquin Outfitters travelling east. If you have a group, you should park at Algonquin Outfitters and walk over to the trailhead as there is no designated parking area at the east trailhead. The beauty of this trail will strike you moments into your hike.

The trail starts with a hardwood forest strewn with large boulders. The maples in mid-May are still going through their budding stage and this is ideal for the ephemeral flowers – early spring is the brief window of time they have to harness the sun's energy before the green spreads to the canopy shading the forest floor.

Appearing shy and drooping downward on a long pale green stem, the trout lily flower has three petals which curl backwards during the day and close at night.

Although beautiful red trilliums flourish along this trail, it is a pointed, green leaf that dominates the crusty, brown leaf litter. This plant is sometimes called adder's tongue for the leaf's snake-like pointed tip, but more commonly it is referred to as trout lily for the purple mottled, trout-like colouring of their leaves. A green carpet of singular leafed plants blankets the forest floor with the multiple stunning yellow flowers sparkling in the understory.

Appearing shy and drooping downward on a long pale green stem, the trout lily flower has three petals which curl backwards during the day and close at night. The single leaves poking out of the ground are the youngsters – trout lilies need several seasons of spring-bare canopies to store enough energy in an underground corm to produce a flower. The corm stores energy rich starch which is the powerhouse of future growth. A corm is a tooth-like mass, like a bulb but not layered like an onion. Amazingly, colonies of trout lilies like what you will find along this section of the Beetle Lake Trail may be as old as the mature trees towering above them after decades of spreading through subterranean corm networks!

The east branch of the Beetle Lake Trail is a classic Canadian Shield hike. The terrain is rugged and rocky and there are several steep inclines and declines – hiking poles will help and keep your water bottle handy during summer hikes. Rocky points give hikers lovely vistas over the Oxtongue Lake narrows. The hardwood forests become more mixed on the ridge where hemlock and balsam fir take over sections adding variety to this forested hike. The eastern hemlocks are huge and their roots snake along the surface of the trail seeking fertile soil to sink into. Blow downs are common and root balls expose the shallow soils of this region.

Trout lilies show up again in droves later in the hike, competing with wintergreen and club moss for ground space on this surprisingly green spring hike. Club moss is a group of about 400 species of small evergreen herbs with scaley or needle-like leaves. Some species look like miniature pine trees and others grow like long, green fingers poking out of the leaf litter.

Along the way, I found a significant scat deposit mid-trail. The volume would indicate a large animal and the droppings were not in pellets but were very dark and fur-free. My best guess would be a black bear eating carrion without ingesting much fur. Being too early for berries, meat is the other likely reason the droppings are black – springtime is good carrion season, especially after a snowy, cold winter.

The lollipop loop at the end of the trail is easy to miss until you realize that the lake is now on your right and not your left! On your way back, every uphill is now down and vice versa and your perspective of the trail and surrounding landscape changes. The return distance of the east trail is about four kilometres; the length and terrain make for a short but vigorous hike. With breaks, this section of the Beetle Lake Trail will take you one to two hours. The west trail is the same length but the terrain is flatter, ideal for those with time restrictions or a preference for an easier hike.

From loop to lollipop, the Beetle Lake Trail offers two trails with different terrain and attributes. East or west trail or both, you are sure to find something of interest on this day hike destination in the far north section of Algonquin Highlands.

Scenic vista by Rick Whitteker

Trout lily in bloom by Rick Whitteker

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Life through a lens

ONE OF my favourite features on Facebook is the 'Memories' tab available. It's comprised of archived content from your own profile; activities, photos, and updates shared on that exact date over the years.

Sometimes the images are photos of the kids when they were younger, and I find those charming of course. Other times, it's a status update or post another version of me shared, many moons ago.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

They're not always flattering, but in this day and age of not printing photos, they act as a warm reminder of chapters from the past.

The other day I looked back into the Memories tab, and 16 years ago, I created an album of photos I took from around the city of Ottawa. While I originally cringed at my spelling and tone in my words, I went to delete the album. But before I hit that little trash can icon, I flipped through the images.

And I realized I had stumbled upon a time capsule.

I have vague memories of that specific grey day in Ottawa. I was 18 years old, my first time living away from home, and I had dreams and visions of being a journalist when I was 'grown up'. I had a passion for photography, and felt like I could make it.

You can tell that, through the photos. An underlying confidence that only 18 year olds can carry. The belief that the world is made for them, and not the other way around.

Truthfully the photos are not great. Grainy and chopped up. Out of focus and disjointed.

But the point isn't the quality of the photos, it's the line of the lens that caught my eye.

There are photos of newspaper boxes, from publications that have since gone under. Phone booths that were ripped out a few short years later. Blurry shots of people walking, talking, laughing, and not a cell phone in sight.

I took the photos on a Canon DSLR camera, years before I had even heard of the iPhone.

There were restaurants that have since closed, events that have since passed, styles that have since gone away, prices that have since skyrocketed.

And on the other side of that lens, I know there's a version of myself that's since moved on.

Now she's a mom, a wife, an editor. I wish I could tell her that photography never really took off, but writing really did. She did it, she made it, she's doing it.

So when you see a past version of yourself, don't cringe. Don't try to shut them down or silence a chapter that shaped you. Those versions deserve to be celebrated, honoured. They took the steps, the dreamed the dreams, they chased the vision. And as a result, you're exactly where you're meant to be.

Take the photos. Post them. They don't need to be perfectly curated or posted for the sole reason of likes and shares. They can be just for you. The past version, the present version, and the future.

A look at a life through a lens.

Top 10 alternate reasons to eat wild leeks

WILD LEEKS are one of those wild edibles that are easy to identify and available right now. Some people love their pungent taste and look forward to an annual leek and potato soup. Others have more nefarious uses in mind.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

Here are the top 10 alternate reasons for eating wild leeks.

1. To see exactly how committed your spouse really is.
2. They offer a passive-aggressive way of getting revenge on the dental profession.
3. To ensure your cavities leave and never come back.
4. To make the black flies pay.
5. To ensure the person at the kissing booth regrets their life choices.
6. To get a little alone time.
7. To prove the theory that a little goes a long way.
8. So that the tracking dogs back off.
9. To have the best breath at the Limburger Cheese Festival.
10. To gain a psychological advantage at the arm-wrestling contest.

Interrupted

Birch tree broken in half, dangling from its trunk
that remains rooted to the earth,
its branches sweeping the ground like the bristles
of a giant broom, scraps of birch skin peeling off the
fractured half,
clinging by shreds to the rest of the tree, my Heart
hiccupping in my chest, as my feet freeze on the trail,
wondering what happened while the world around
the birch tree slept, Wind prowling through the deepest of Night,
massacring trees that stood in its way, only yesterday I passed the birch, growing among pines on the
edge of the trail,
admiring the straight line of its spine, straightening
my slouching shoulders as I passed,
hunching them now, in disbelief, as I crouch down
to graze the buds of leaves clawing their way
into the world,
their branches crumpled on the ground, their Life
ending before it even began,
a shiver slithers through me as I pull the sleeves of
my sweater past my fingertips, wrap my jacket tighter
around me,
quietly cursing morning Wind that roams without
respite along the trail, spring, late in arriving,
trees waiting to welcome leaves, straw-coloured
reeds envying blades of grass, greening after Rain,
the caws of crows tearing Air, as I watch them flap
their wings over the carcasses of trees that are no
longer there,
leaving gaps between the family of trees that fringe
the trail, the saplings unruffled by the storm,
too small to be toppled by Wind, their elders, too tall
to escape its wrath,
I glance down at the ground, at the pebbles and
stones littering the trail,
spotting the snail shell between two pebbles, round
and white as tiny moons,
wondering whether the snail is still housed inside,
exploring the trail and the world beyond it,
carrying its Home with it wherever it goes, sheltering each Night beneath the brown spirals of its roof,
sleeping beneath Sky speckled with freckles of stars,
and the glowing face of Moon,
I scoop up the snail shell from the ground, promptly placing it back down, when I see the snail still
squished inside,
not wanting to interrupt its journey across the trail,
the way Night Wind interrupted the growth of the
birch,
splitting it in two, the fractured half that dangles
from the trunk, its branches that were birthing buds
containing future leaves, now laying lifeless, brushing the ground where the other half of
the tree remains,
its roots still tethered to the earth, though it grows
limbless and branchless now,
but I hope that somehow, somewhere, a small green
sprig of Life will sprout,
like the stump of the tree that squats on the other
side of the trail, a green tendril curling from inside the
rotted hollow,
wondering whether the birch is still a tree though it's
broken in half, or just a shell,
like the one on the trail that houses the snail, left
empty after it leaves.

Sylvie Kalenda

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Sue King, the owner and operator of Pine Reflections in Carnarvon, is celebrating 15 years in business. Pictured, King visits her Fairy Garden on-site. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Fifteen years of flower power

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

There's magic happening in Carnarvon. Actually, it's been happening for the past 15 years, but it's not slowing down anytime soon.

The well-known Pine Reflections Gift and Garden Centre in the heart of the hamlet is celebrating 15 years this spring, with owner Sue King at the helm.

And King is the maker of magic. "If there is no magic in your world, you're missing something," she said, as she wandered around her shop; fairies flitting across the ceiling and whimsical colours dashing along the walls.

The Highway 35 location has become a destination over the years, with Gina and Nigel Atkinson as the original owners. King moved to the area in 2004, after spending 25 years in the Toronto hospitality industry. "I needed a lifestyle change," she said. "When my hands are dirty, my mind is still. This was really great healing for me. I really enjoyed it."

King came to the shop as an employee, but quickly, her passion for plants came to the surface. "I was like a sponge," she said. "I soaked it all in. I just fell in love."

When it came time for the Atkinsons to retire, King was the first to be offered the shop. "When I was 17, I had a dream of opening a flower shop," she recalled, noting that she believes in putting dreams out into the universe, knowing that in some form, they will work out.

With passion powering her way forward, King jumped into ownership of the community hub, and quickly forged ahead. In 2013, she doubled the size of the gift shop, and continues to add items that bring her joy. With crystals, books, jewellery, trinkets, and whimsical decor, the shop is a destination unto itself. "It's a place for mindfulness," she said, arms waving to the stocked shelves of goodies and treasures. "I have some people come in, just to spend some time here, and they tell me they just love the vibe here."

While the interview ticked on, more and more cars rolled in, filling their trunks with plants and herbs for the upcoming gardening season. With each new customer, the staff at Pine Reflections were present, helpful, and knowledgeable. The centre quickly bubbled to become a reunion, as opposed to a drop-in shop; the energy high, the enthusiasm palpable.

"I love it," said King. "We've had loyal customers forever and ever."

When asked about mixing business and pleasure; her whole world revolving around the seasonal shop, King just shook her head. "I'm so proud of it now," she said. "It is so much more than a money thing. Life goes by too fast. We all need to lighten up."

While the shop markets that it is seasonal, Pine Reflections is open from the end of March to just after Christmas each year. But King shared that the varying seasons gives her an opportunity to explore all you can grow and show in the Haliburton Highlands, with flowers and herbs in the summer, autumnal foliage in the fall, and wreaths and baskets over the winter holidays.

Looking ahead, King is excited for what's next. While she is focusing on her own physical and mental health, she is also eager to continue to grow and shift with the needs of the community. "It's been 15 years of trial and error," she laughed, "but now I know what I am doing, and we all evolve."

King shared that one of her favourite quotes is attributed to poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, saying "the earth laughs in flowers." And King personifies that. With a destination that offers hope, peace, and just the right amount of flower power, Pine Reflections is equipped for the next 15 years in business. "This is a place that offers a great source of light and joy," said King. "I just love it here."

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Snowflake Meadows annual fundraiser returns

IVY KATZ
County Life Staff

Founding owner Kristyn Begbie will have 40 vendors at this year's Snowflake Meadows Magical Festival. The annual fundraiser is in its third year, and will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 6.

This event is an opportunity to give children a fun-filled day while supporting a worthy cause. Snowflake Meadows is the only rescue for dogs in the county, and Begbie has ended up rescuing just about everything since founding in 2018 and achieving not-for-profit status in 2021.

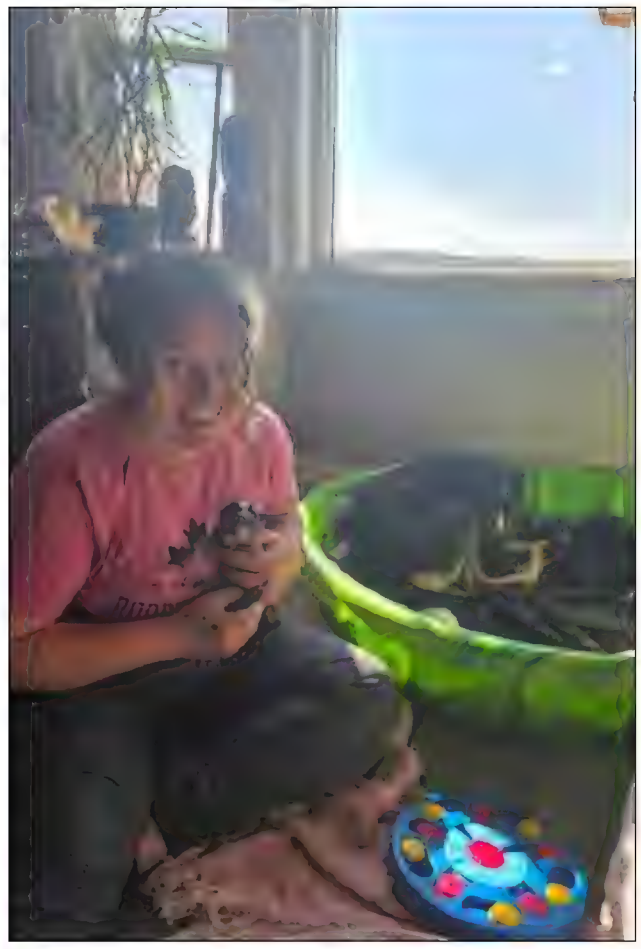
She has been dog-walking and getting dogs spayed and neutered since her school-yard days, eventually turning it into a full-fledged business that is busier than ever. Begbie deals one-on-one with owner-surrenders, rehabilitation for dogs, healing animals from neglect and abuse, spays and neutering, parasite prevention, vaccination, and then supports their journey towards adoption, with much care taken in finding the dogs a suitable foster home. The health and happiness of their dogs beams from the pictures, and they have a 4.9 Google Star rating, which speaks to the work Begbie and her team do.

But the need is continuing to increase. With surrenders not slowing down anytime soon, Begbie has been adamantly fundraising to build a kennel in an effort to accommodate all animals in need.

This is where the annual fundraiser comes into play. In addition to the vendors, the event will be catered by Mulligan's, who normally operate out of the golf course in Minden, and Till Death BBQ. Pockets the Clown will be face-painting. There will be a petting zoo featuring puppies, pigs, goats, ponies, alpacas, and peacocks for people to see; a kids play zone with a bouncy castle and games; puppet play time which will operate out of the barn; Mortimer the Tortoise will be out of his enclosure; a paint the bus event where kids can paint the side of a school bus; the lure course for anyone who brings their dog, and pony rides by donation. There will also be a silent auction, which currently has over 40 amazing home and garden and pet items and a 50/50 Give and Get draw.

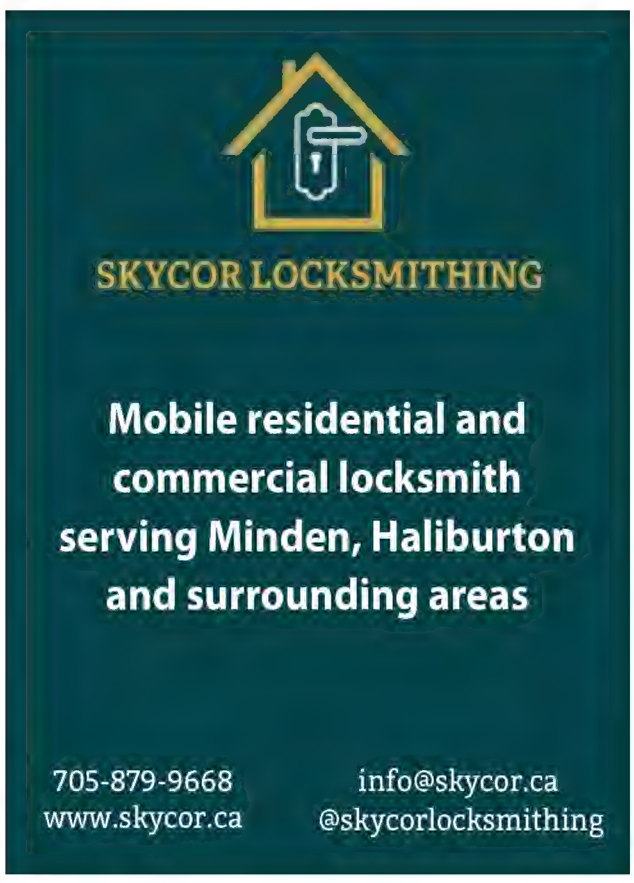
The event will be held at 1089 Ritchie Falls Road in Minden on Saturday, June 6.

For a full list of what to expect for the community fundraiser, follow Snowflake Meadows on their socials or visit snowflakemeadows.com. Admission is by donation, and all are welcome to attend.



Pictured, Snowflake Meadows founder Kristyn Begbie supports a fresh puppy. Begbie is committed to helping all animals in need across the county, but is looking for community support to finance a kennel to support the critters. /submitted

One happy dog at Snowflake Meadows, a not-for-profit that boards, rescues, and re-homes animals in need. Below, a fresh puppy, supported by Snowflake Meadows founder, Kristyn Begbie



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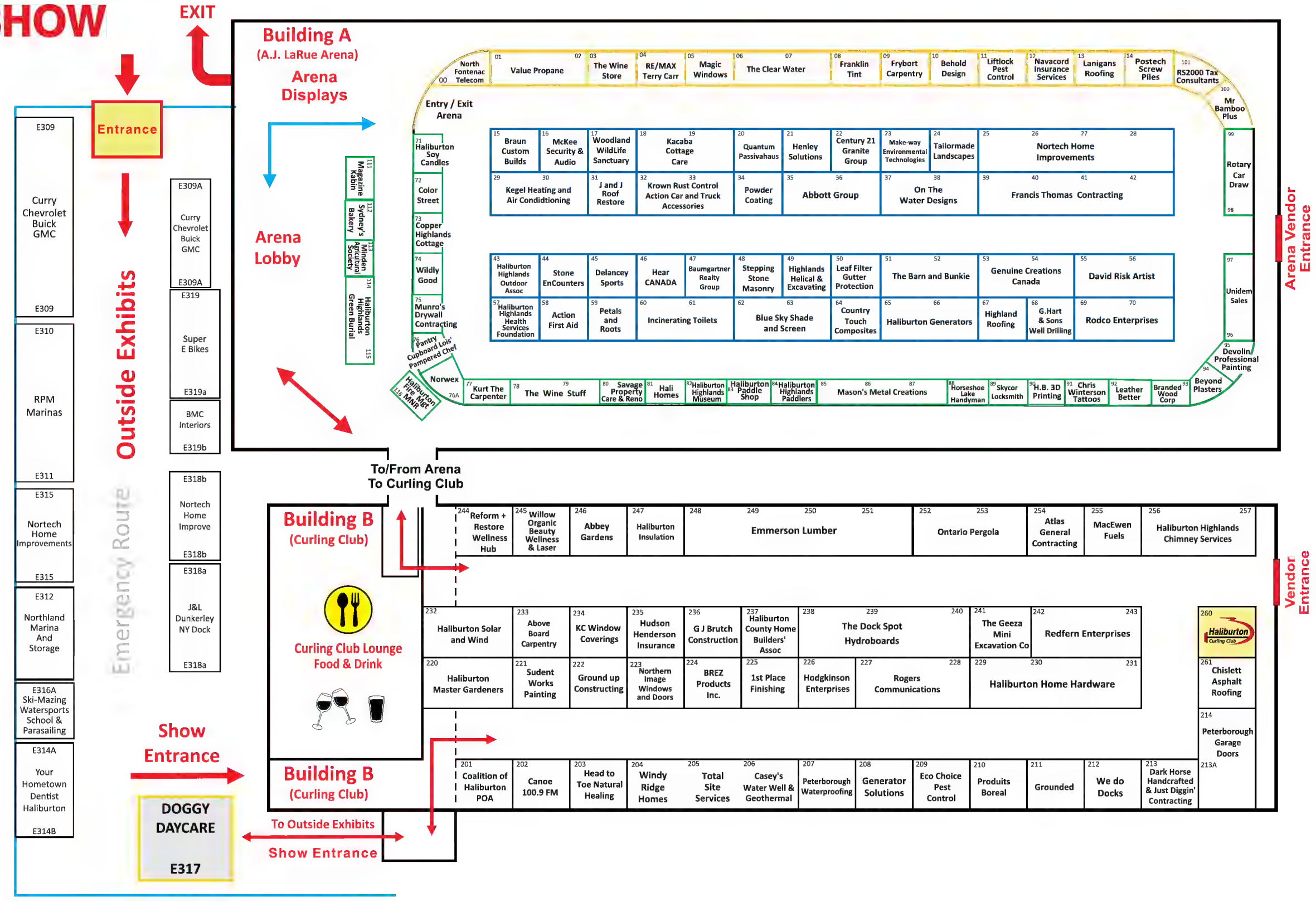

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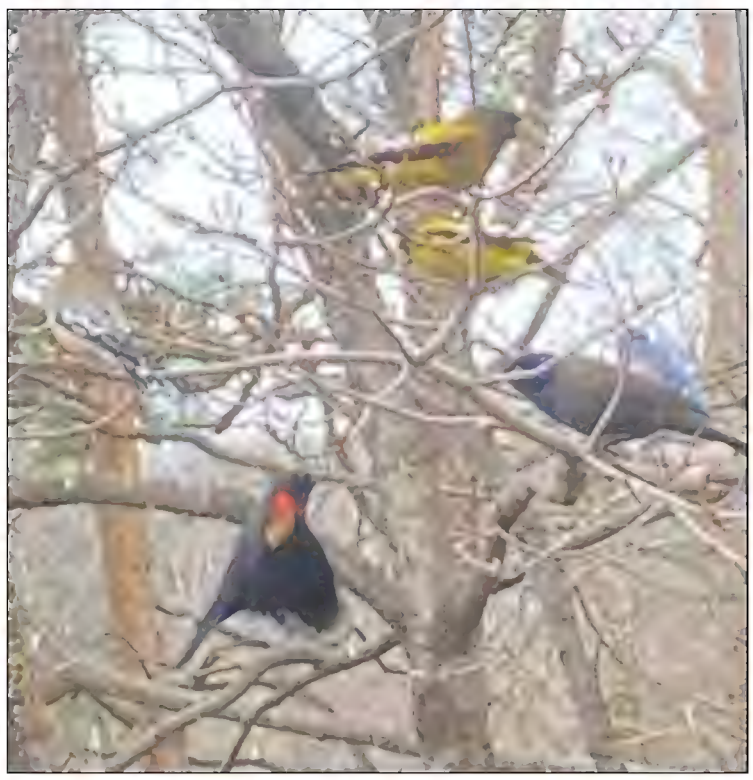
Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Visiting bear by Tammy Nash

Rose breasted grosbeak by Randy Barber



Flurry of birds by Vivien Mausz

Hummingbird by Jill Moulton

Deer eating bird feed by Rob Barnes

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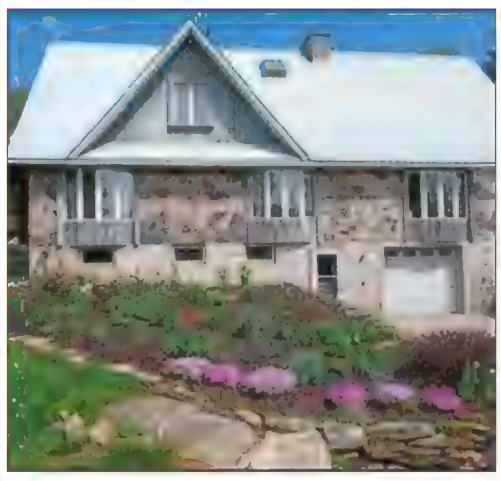

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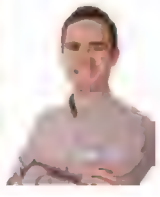

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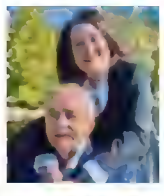

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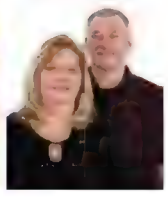
* Well Treed Property with Trials, Abundant Wildlife and Plenty of Room to Roam



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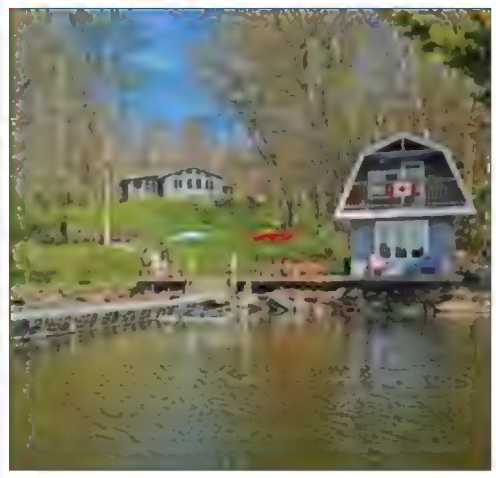
MOUNTAIN LAKE $949,000



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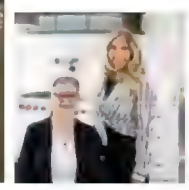

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Kinmount Library audit; for the birds

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

A Bird Friendly Certified City shows a commitment by a region that they are actively making decisions to protect bird populations.

With the Kawartha Lakes already being Bird Friendly, and more cities like Caledon receiving recent certification, the pressure is on for Haliburton County to become Bird Friendly.

To receive the Bird Friendly City status, there is a 55-page application process to ensure that areas mitigate threats to birds, protect and restore their habitats, and provide education around birds and their protection.

Fortunately, for a smaller, rural area like Haliburton County, Nature Canada offers a Bird Friendly Town certification.

The first step towards becoming a Bird Friendly Town is getting support from the county council.

"Our council was completely onboard," said Jamie Morris, member of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee. "It was an easy sell since no costs were involved."

From within the municipality, Morris says that their planning department was largely supportive of the initiative, and assisted with collecting necessary information from Public Works and other departments.

A Belted Kingfisher swoops past the water. /photos by Ed Poropat

As a member of the Kawartha Lake's appointed Environmental Advisory Committee (KLEAC), Morris offered to assemble a team of the City of Kawartha Lakes' finest organizations and those with an interest in protecting birds. In March of 2023, the team held their first meeting, with members composed of representatives from Fleming College, Kawartha Conservation, Kawartha Land Trust, Kawartha Field Naturalists, KLEAC, and Kawartha Bird Control.

"It brought our various organizations together, created awareness of good work being done and where the gaps were," said Morris.

Some requirements throughout the process includes forming a Bird Team that provides annual reports, determining the surrounding Indigenous territories and encouraging the participation and perspectives of local Indigenous community members, formal support from council, celebrating Migratory Bird Day, implementing cat bylaws to prevent predation, and measures against pollution, pesticide use, and habitat disturbances.

The certification also allowed the group to receive grants for educating the public.

One effort that benefited from this funding was a campaign to educate people on how dangerous cats are to wild birds, killing an estimated 60 million birds per year in Canada alone. The effort, called Keep Cats Safe Pledge, involved those that committed to keeping their cats inside were entered into a draw to win a catio.

As part of their Bird Friendly commitment, Kawartha Lakes has recently had their Kinmount branch of the Kawartha Lakes Library audited for bird safety and support.

The company that conducted the audit is Kawartha Bird Control, owned by Norland resident Zack Steele.

During Steele's investigation, Black-capped chickadees, dark-eyed juncos, and mourning doves were observed in the immediate area.

The report recommended the installation of collision deterrent dots, an alternate overnight lighting schedule and enhancing the existing flower beds with native flora that are beneficial to birds and pollinators.

"Having a reflective surface often mirrors back non-existent habitat," writes Steele's report. "When outdoor habitat can be viewed through one window and out another, these are known as flythrough conditions."

The only solution to prevent these fatal collisions is through deterrent markers on the exterior of all windows. The leading company producing this is Feather Friendly, which sells the markings in the form of rolls of tape that can be affixed to windows. Appearing as small dots on your window, they are not obstructive.

The Kinmount branch of the Kawartha Lakes Library has 38 windows that should receive treatment. In the report, Steele recommends "treating the entire building at once given the adjacence to the Burnt River and nearby forested habitats."

In addition to the preventive markings, Steele recommended including education infographics where people can learn about the anti-collision stickers.

The overnight lighting interrupts nocturnally migrating birds through light pollution. With large areas of light causing disorientation, birds are drawn towards buildings, windows, and other hazards. The report recommended motion sensors in lieu of a lighting schedule, reducing energy costs and expenditure.

"As with any green spaces, building adjacent garden spaces presents an opportunity for positive overlap between people and nature," writes the report.

Steele says that their garden is a valuable resource to provide food and habitat opportunities for both birds and pollinators like bees and butterflies. An emphasis on fruit, seed, and nut bearing trees and shrubs as well as vines and hedgerows to increase available habitat area would greatly benefit biodiversity around the library.

Some native plant species offered included highbush cranberry, bee balm, nannyberry, ostrich fern, and wild strawberry.

Kawartha Bird Control says that if Kawarthas Lakes is interested, the installation could be completed in either the summer or fall of this year. This initiative would continue the growth as a Bird Friendly City and provide the opportunity to encourage positive social outreach and publicly show the municipality's efforts in protecting bird species.

In total, the project is estimated to cost just shy of $5,000 for all windows receiving the collision deterrent.

Currently, Kawartha Lakes is looking at making seven more of their properties bird safe.

With more and more places becoming Bird Friendly, Morris says that there is the potential for Haliburton County to become Bird Friendly as well.

As a neighbour to the south that went through the Bird Friendly process, he says that the area would benefit greatly through sharing its resources and committing as an entire region towards the protection of bird species.

After becoming Bird Friendly Town, Haliburton County would be able to choose its very own official bird, just as Kawartha Lakes voted for the osprey in 2025.

"Every bird you see is unique," said Morris. "It is a great way to promote an interest in birds."

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To market, to market

Local Farmers' markets have officially kicked off, with the Minden market runnings on Saturdays and the Haliburton Market set for Tuesdays. Despite rainy and cool weather, both markets had successful openings, with many coming out to support the vendors. Markets will be continuing until Thanksgiving. /photos by EMILY STONEHOUSE and TIM YANO staff

Haliburton Highlands
Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Board game drop-in - various dates in June
Tech Help Walk-in Clinic - June 3, 9, 11, & 12
Yarners Social - June 3, 10, 17 & 24
Genealogy for Seniors - June 3, 11, 17, 19, 23
Breathwork Class - June 4 & 11
Painting Class - June 4 & 18
Needle Felting: Bumblebees - June 4, 10, 11, 12, & 26
Live Music with Jeff Moulton - June 5
Gentle Stretch, Balance & Relaxation - June 5, 12, 19
Senior Balance - June 5, 12, 19, & 26
SALC Webinar: Hearing Health - June 8
Seniors Stretch Class - June 9, 16 & 23
Exercise classes with Georgia - June 9, 16, 23, & 30
Exercise with Georgia - June 10
Chair Yoga with Ardith - June 11 & 25
Crafternoon - June 17
Poetry with Patricia - June 18
SALC Webinar: Pollinator Gardens - June 22
Summer High Tea Party - June 24

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

Haliburton County Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC)

Through this program, older adults (55+) and seniors (65+) are invited to get active, make friends, and be well!

The SALC Program is designed to provide social, cultural, learning, and recreational opportunities for seniors to stay fit, healthy and socially connected in their communities.

SALC Programming is available in Haliburton County through collaboration between the County of Haliburton and local municipalities, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, and multiple partners.

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

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COMING EVENT

Opening 21st Century Follies Art Space Gallery. 1513 Eagle Lake Rd. West Guilford. May 30th-June 28th. Wednesday-Sunday, 11-4. Reception Saturday June 6th, 1-3. Info at www.brushandpen.ca

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Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m., Card night 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5 p.m.
2nd Sunday of the month
Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting.7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Email: 441RCL@gmail.com Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo
doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club
room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m. Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: Open 7 to 10 p.m. May 18, 25 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Special Events Only
Wednesday: Open 2 to 10 p.m.
May 27 Darts $5/player 2 p.m. Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10. 5 to 6:30 p.m. Open Cribbage 6:30 p.m. – No need to pre-register
Thursday: Open 2 to 6 p.m. - May 28 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday: Open 2 to 11 p.m. -
May 29 Fish & Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20. 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: Open 2 to 7 p.m.
30 Nacho Average Trivia. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. Game Begins at 7pm Sharp. $5/Player
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-222

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Highlands Wind Symphony Spring Concert

When: Sunday, May 31 at 3 p.m.
Where: Pinestone Inn and Conference Centre Ballroom
Also featuring the Highlands Swing Band with Jerelyn Craden. Adults $15, Family $30. Tickets at Minden Pharmasave, Redmen Records and Master's Book Store.

Haliburton Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides Event

When: Sunday, May 31.
Registration at 10 a.m.
Walk at 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Pet Valu Store
Registration forms available at the store.
Website: haliburtonlegion.com

Haliburton County Historical Society Annual General Meeting

When: Thursday, May 28 at 7p.m.
Where: Haliburton Museum, 66 Museum Road, Haliburton
Learn about: Lodging Legacies: The Lost Cabins, Camps, and Lodges of the Kashagawigamog Lake Chain from author Linda Lewis-Daly. Note: Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing by the author

"Designing a Cutting Garden"

When: June 2, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St., Minden
Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society where Guest speaker Lucille Fowler will present "Designing a Cutting Garden",followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Minden Rotary Annual Northern Gala

When: Saturday, June 6
Doors open at 4:30 p.m.,
Dinner 6 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Community Centre
This event raises money that Minden Rotary turns back into the community by supporting many aspects of the community. A catered buffet dinner provided by McKeck's. Dancing to DJ Dan Sullivan after the auction closes will cap off the evening. Tickets are $70 per person. Advanced Tickets only at Lets Get Local 705-286-6868 or Linda Litwin 705-457-8511.

Friends of The Haliburton County Public Library Annual General Meeting

When: Mon., June 8, 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch of The Haliburton Public Library, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
New members are very welcome. You are invited to attend the meeting in person or by ZOOM. For more information, please contact: fol@haliburtoncounty@gmail.com

Hystory Entertainment - Victorian Murder Mystery Dinner

When: July 10 & 11 from 6 - 9 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Community Centre, 9 Grandy Rd., Coboconk
Your presence is requested at Birchwood Estate for a formal evening of fine dining and intrigue. Immerse yourself in a world of secrets, suspicion, and scandal – but beware … all is not as it appears. Earlybird tickets $75 (until May 31). Regular price $85. 705-209-3044. hystoryentertainment@gmail.com.

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Voters hear from the candidates

by Andrew Milne

The economy, the constitution, gun control.

All the usual suspects were in evidence for last week's all-candidates' meeting, Wednesday evening at the Minden Community Centre.

Present were Lorne Chester (PC), Rick Denyer (NDP), Pat Dunn (Reform), Charles Olito (Canadian Action Party), and incumbent John O'Reilly (Liberal).

There were few standout moments in the evening, with all candidates making reasonably strong presentations. Political neophytes Denyer and Dunn were surprisingly confident before the crowd — Denyer keeping to brief, but passionately delivered platform statements emphasizing his party's stand on social programs, Dunn making spirited, even polished attacks on both Liberal and PC candidates' positions on gun control and the Quebec question.

The crowd itself, however, may well have been the star player of the evening — very nearly a full hall showed, and frequently drove the discussion, with often pointed, often creative questions that appeared to keep the candidates working hard.

The men behind the mikes frequently found themselves answering for past policy statements, their voting records, their parties' various approaches to national unity, and fielding suggestions for innovation in government some of them clearly hadn't considered before. Some of those in attendance, furthermore, weren't taking anything that sounded remotely evasive for an answer.

Overall, the political dynamics of the local meeting roughly mirrored the national parties' platforms and perceived strengths. O'Reilly concentrated, in concert with his campaign to date, on portraying his and his government's record through the past term as that of competent and sensible administration.

"Paul Martin brought in the first actual cuts to a federal budget since World War II, and as of 1998, we won't be borrowing new money any more... When the Liberals came into office, Canada was at the bottom of the G7 countries as a place to live. Now, we're second from the top," O'Reilly told the crowd.

Chester attacked the incumbent government on continued lagging employment figures, and O'Reilly specifically on his perceived weak spot — gun control. The incumbent is now easily infamous in the gun community for having promised to vote against his government on bill C-68, and then failing to show for the vote.

Following the formal portion of the all-candidates meeting Wednesday evening election hopefuls waded into rthe audience to answer questions, press the flash and deal with issues that didn't get a full airing. Reform candidate Pat Dunn is seen here talking with spectators.

Said Chester, "This election is about integrity. This election is about credibility. This election is about broken Liberal promises... When I talk to the youth of today. I don't see dreams... Where are the jobs?"

Chester also found a few words for Reform's national policies — alluding to Reform leader Preston Manning's politics as a western separatist, and suggesting the Reform leader has become "more interested in becoming the president of Western Canada" than in preserving national unity.

Dunn's attack on O'Reilly's position roughly mirrored Chester's — "Mr O'Reilly," he said, "misled us. It's a question of integrity. If you can't keep your word, don't give it" — with equivalent fire back in the Conservatives' direction on the subject of national unity, and suggestions to the effect that the Conservatives have gone too far toward appeasing separatist forces' demands.

NDP candidate Denyer talked the party line through most of the evening, with the signature NDP line in this election — "Send the NDP to Ottawa as a conscience for the Liberals" — frequently repeated.

"The Liberals are listening to Preston Manning," said Denyer. "The Liberals are listening to Jean Charest. My opponents are still blaming our social programs for the national debt. They don't seem to want to talk about the real reason: high interest rates... They all talk a good line on job creation here, but in parliament, over the past term, they were pressing the Liberals not for job creation, but for more cuts to our social programs. The NDP asked about jobs."

CAP candidate Olito's delivery carried his party's mes-

(more on page 3)

Don't forget the Canadian Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic tomorrow, Tuesday, May 27 at the Legion Hall in Haliburton 1:30 - 7 p.m.

Blood is urgently needed in hospitals in Ontario and organizers have set a target of 240 donations. All blood types are needed, especially group O.

Healthy individuals between the ages of 17 and 70 are urged to attend. Donors are reminded to bring valid identification.

This is the first of two clinics which will be held in the county this year. The second is scheduled for July 22. It is hoped that by holding two clinics this summer the crowding and lengthy lines which occurred at the single clinic last year will be avoided.

Residents will meet with TSW chief engineer

Gull riverside residents upset with the water that has been lapping at their doorsteps will get a chance to speak to the man in charge.

Trent-Severn waterway chief engineer Bruce Kitchen will be present at a meeting Wednesday, May 28 in the committee room at the municipal building.

Kitchen was invited by the residents, who have been coping with abnormally high water levels. The Gull River overflowed its banks earlier this month flooding roads on both sides of the waterway — North Water and Anson streets — resulting in the closure of North Water for a few days. Basement sump pumps went into overtime, and yards along Anson street were submerged for days, forcing some residents to wear waders merely to leave the house.

Kitchen told *The Times* last week the high water levels were due to the odd weather conditions — particularly a surge in rainfall before the snowmelt was over.

"Near the end of April," said Kitchen, "and into May it turned very wet, and the last of the

(more on page 3)

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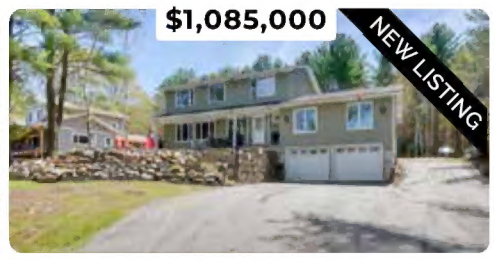

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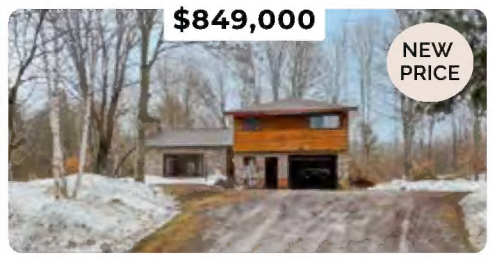

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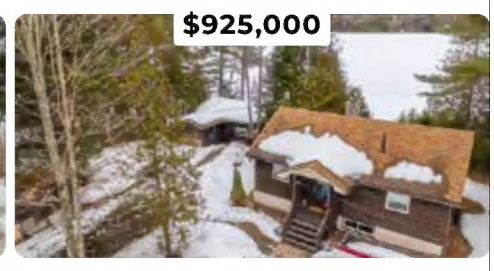

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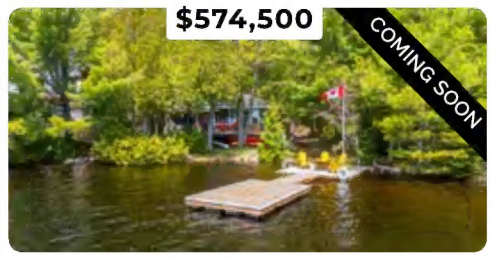

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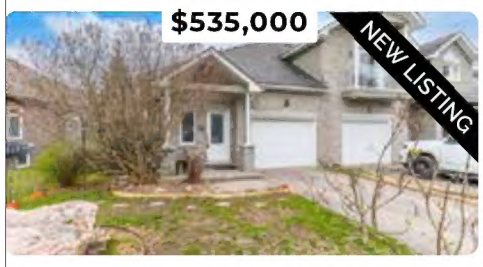

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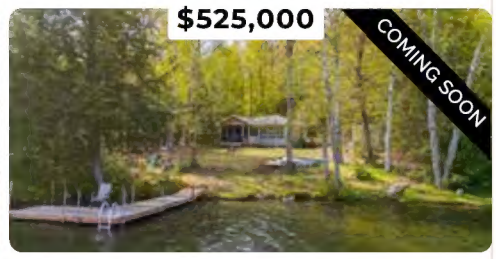

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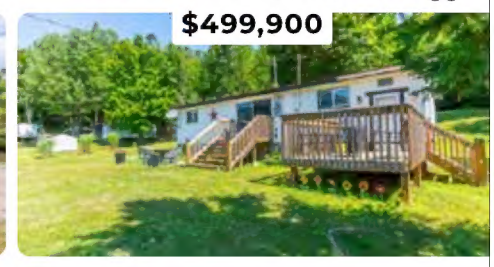

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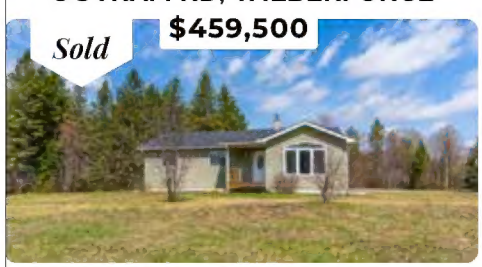

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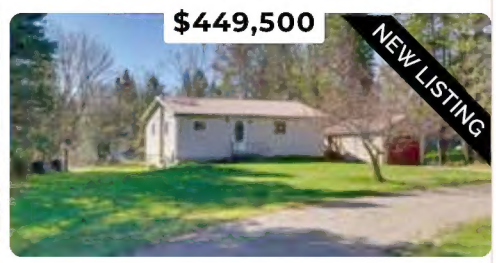

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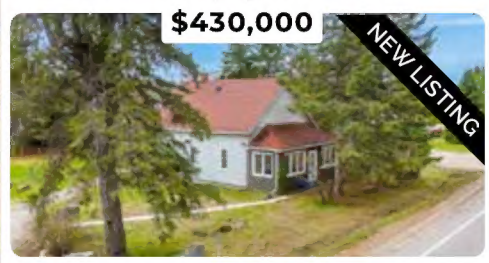

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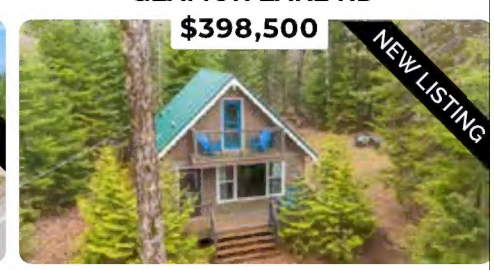

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